

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were pending in the present application when last examined. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 remain pending.

Interview Summary

Applicant apologizes for any misunderstanding resulting from the telephone interview on February 27, 2006. Applicant's only intention was to respond to the outstanding office action since no formal agreement was reached in the telephone interview.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 2 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner, Applicant has amended claim 2 to independent form to remove the claim objection and expedite the prosecution.

§103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,354,747 ("Irie et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,195,156 ("Freeman et al.").

Claim 1

Addressing claim 1, the Examiner again found claim 1 to have "an open-ended transitional recitation that does not clearly limit the sleeve to have only one bore." May 19, 2006 Final Office Action, p. 8. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "a sleeve defining only one bore with an inner surface having a constant inner diameter for receiving and contacting outer surfaces of the alignment feature and a ferrule of a fiber optic connector when the alignment feature and the ferrule are inserted into the bore at opposite ends of the bore," which is not disclosed by the combination of Irie et al. and Freeman et al. Amended claim 1 (emphasis added). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is now patentable over the combination of Irie et al. and Freeman et al.

Claim 2

Amended claim 2 recites similar limitations as amended claim 1 and is patentable over the combination of Irie et al. and Freeman et al. for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

insertion hole 40. Thus, head portion 24 is only inserted partially into insertion hole 40 as illustrated in the annotated Fig. 4A. So inserted, aspherical lens 24B does not make contact with the inner surface of sleeve SL. Applicant notes that the figures for the other embodiments of Irie et al. also show that aspherical lens 24B does not make contact with the inner surface of sleeve SL. Accordingly, claim 5 is further patentable over the combination of Irie et al. and Freeman et al.

Claim 4

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irie et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,652,158 ("Bartur et al."). Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is patentable over the combination of Irie et al. and Bartur et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Furthermore, claim 4 is patentable for the following reasons.

Addressing claim 4, the Examiner stated:

.... However, Irie et al. do not teach the alignment feature comprises a solid post comprising a transmissive material allowing emitted light to pass through.

Bartur et al. teach an optical assembly having an "active element" that is also an alignment element (Fig. 3, 24) that transmit the emitted light from the laser diode.

September 8, 2005 Final Office Action, p. 3. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Bartur et al. discloses an active optical component 24 that is a TO can encasing a light source. "The optical component 24 is illustrated configured in a cylindrical package which may be a conventional cylindrical transistor outline (TO) package or 'TO can'." Bartur et al., col. 5, lines 45 to 48. As understood in the art, a conventional TO can is a hollow package that encases a die. Thus, active optical component 24 cannot be "the alignment feature comprising a solid post" that is mounted on a surface of a package as recited in claim 4.

As shown in Fig. 2D, light is emitted out of the TO can through a lens 44 and not through the TO can itself. "A lens 44 of suitable type may also be provided as schematically illustrated." Bartur et al., col. 7, lines 44 and 48. Thus, light is transmitted through lens 44 and not through the TO can itself. Thus, active optical component 24 cannot be "the alignment feature comprises a solid post comprising a transmissive material allowing a light emitted by the package to pass through" recited in claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Irie et al. and Bartur et al.

Summary

In summary, claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were pending in the present application when last examined. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480x206.

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Respectfully submitted,



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